

For release 10:00 a.m. (EST) Friday, March 1, 2013

USDL-13-0339

Technical information: (202) 691-7410 • [nls\\_info@bls.gov](mailto:nls_info@bls.gov) • [www.bls.gov/nls](http://www.bls.gov/nls)  
Media contact: (202) 691-5902 • [PressOffice@bls.gov](mailto:PressOffice@bls.gov)

**(NOTE: This news release was reissued on March 22, 2013, to correct data in Table 4 for Hispanic or Latino high school graduates, never enrolled in college—percent unemployed while ages 22 to 25. No other data or analysis was affected.)**

**(NOTE: This news release was reissued on March 5, 2013, to correct data in Table 2 for Hispanics or Latinos with a bachelor's degree or more, no longer enrolled and not in the labor force during the October when age 25. No other data or analysis was affected.)**

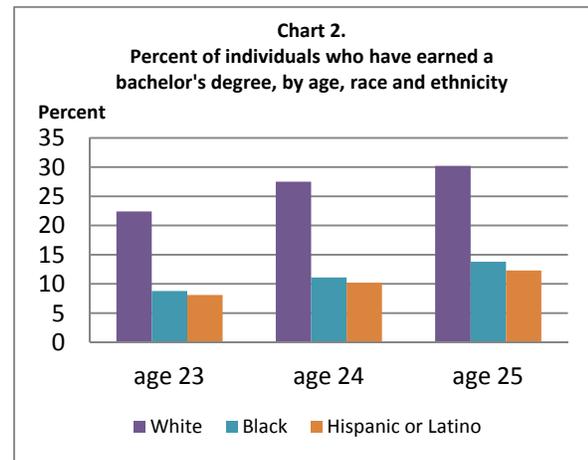
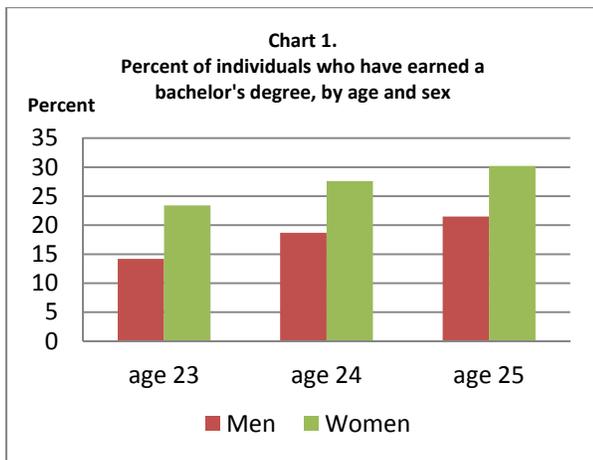
## **AMERICA'S YOUTH AT 25: SCHOOL ENROLLMENT, NUMBER OF JOBS HELD AND LABOR MARKET ACTIVITY: RESULTS FROM A LONGITUDINAL SURVEY**

By the October when they were 25 years of age, 30 percent of women and 22 percent of men had received a bachelor's degree, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Additionally, nearly the same percentage of men and women (13 and 14 percent respectively) were enrolled in college at age 25.

These findings are from the first 14 annual rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, a nationally representative survey of about 9,000 young men and women who were born during the years 1980 to 1984. These respondents were ages 12 to 17 when first interviewed in 1997, and ages 25 to 31 when interviewed for the 14th time in 2010-11. The survey provides information on work and nonwork experiences, training, schooling, income, assets, and other characteristics. The information provided by respondents is representative of all men and women born in the early 1980s and living in the United States when the survey began in 1997.

This release focuses on the school enrollment and employment experiences of these individuals from their 18th birthday until they turned 26. Highlights from the longitudinal survey include:

- During the October when they were 25 years old, 22 percent of men had received a bachelor's degree, compared with 30 percent of women. (See table 1 and chart 1.)
- Five percent of male high school graduates who had never enrolled in college were in the Armed Forces during the October when they were age 25, as were 6 percent of the 25-year-old men who had attended college but had not earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled. Three percent of 25-year-old men with a bachelor's degree were serving in the Armed Forces. About 1 percent of women in each of these educational attainment categories were in the Armed Forces at age 25. (See table 2.)



- Individuals born from 1980 to 1984 held an average of 6.3 jobs from ages 18 to 25. On average, those with more education held more jobs than those with less education. (See table 3.)
- Men held an average of 4.0 jobs from ages 18 to 21 and 3.2 jobs from ages 22 to 25 while women held an average of 4.2 jobs and 3.2 jobs at those ages. In general, from ages 22 to 25, individuals with more education held more jobs, worked more weeks, and were less likely to be out of the labor force. (See table 4.)
- High school graduates who had never enrolled in college were employed an average of 69 percent of the weeks from ages 18 to 21, and 76 percent of weeks from ages 22 to 25. In comparison, those who had dropped out of high school were employed 51 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 21, and 58 percent of weeks from ages 22 to 25. (See table 4.)
- By their 26th birthday, 5 percent of youths who had not received a high school diploma had never held a job since the time they turned 18. Of all jobs held by high school dropouts since age 18, nearly two-thirds lasted less than a year. (See table 5.)

### **Educational Attainment at age 25**

At 25 years of age, 26 percent of individuals had received their bachelor's degree, up from 23 percent at age 24, and 19 percent at age 23. The percent of individuals enrolled in college rose slightly from 13 to 14 percent between ages 24 and 25. Forty-three percent of 25 year olds had graduated from high school and were not enrolled in college, and 8 percent had earned a General Educational Development (GED) credential and were not enrolled in college. Nine percent of individuals were high school dropouts during the October when they were age 25. (See table 1.)

Women were much more likely than men to have received a bachelor's degree by the October they were age 25 and were equally likely to still be enrolled in college. Thirty percent of women had earned a bachelor's degree, compared with 22 percent of men. At age 25, women were less likely than men to be high school dropouts or high school graduates not enrolled in college.

At age 25, there was a large difference in educational attainment among racial and ethnic groups. Non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics were about twice as likely as whites to be high school dropouts in the October they were age 25. In comparison, whites were more than twice as likely as blacks or Hispanics

to have received their bachelor's degree by this age. Thirty percent of whites had received their bachelor's degree, compared with 14 percent of blacks and 12 percent of Hispanics. (See chart 2.)

### **Employment Status at age 25 of Young Adults Not Enrolled in School**

Among those not enrolled in school the October when age 25, labor force status differed substantially by educational attainment. Those with more education were more likely to be employed in civilian jobs and less likely to be out of the labor force. Sixty percent of high school dropouts were employed in civilian jobs in the October they were age 25. At the same age, 76 percent of high school graduates who had never enrolled in college were employed in civilian jobs, and another 3 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. Among 25-year-old high school graduates who had some college experience but had not earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled in college, 81 percent were employed in civilian jobs and 3 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. Ninety-one percent of 25-year-olds who had earned a bachelor's degree and were no longer enrolled were employed in civilian jobs, while 2 percent were serving in the Armed Forces. (See table 2.)

During the October when age 25, men were more likely to be serving in the Armed Forces than women (4 percent compared to 1 percent). Among high school graduates who had never enrolled in college, 5 percent of men and 1 percent of women were serving in the Armed Forces; for those who had attended college without earning a bachelor's degree, nearly 6 percent of men and 1 percent of women were in the Armed Forces. Of those with a bachelor's degree, 3 percent of men and 1 percent of women were in the Armed Forces.

### **Employment Attachment of Young Adults from ages 18 to 25**

Individuals had an average of 6.3 jobs from the ages of 18 through 25 in 1998-2010. On average, men held 6.2 jobs and women held 6.4 jobs. (See table 3.) In this release, a job is defined as a period of work, including gaps, with a particular employer. (See the Technical Note for additional information on the definition of a job.)

On average, young adults represented by the survey sample were employed during 72 percent of all the weeks occurring from age 18 through age 25. They were unemployed—that is, without jobs but seeking work—6 percent of the weeks. They were not in the labor force—that is, neither working nor seeking work—22 percent of the weeks.

Overall, men at these ages spent more time employed and less time out of the labor force than women, but this varied greatly by education. Men with less than a high school diploma spent 62 percent of weeks employed from ages 18 to 25. These men also spent 13 percent of weeks unemployed. In comparison, women with less than a high school diploma spent 44 percent of weeks employed and 10 percent of weeks unemployed from ages 18 to 25. Women without a high school diploma spent 46 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 25 out of the labor force, more weeks than they did employed. Women with a bachelor's degree or more education spent a larger proportion of weeks employed than did similarly educated men (76 versus 70 percent) and less time out of the labor force (21 versus 27 percent).

The amount of time employed differs between educational-attainment groups, especially among blacks. From ages 18 to 25, blacks with less than a high school diploma were employed in 40 percent of all weeks. In comparison, black high school graduates who had never enrolled in college were employed in 61 percent of weeks, and blacks with a bachelor's degree or more education were employed 68 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 25.

Examining these data by smaller age ranges reveals that despite being in the labor force a greater percentage of weeks, individuals held fewer jobs from ages 22 to 25 than they did from ages 18 to 21. While ages 18 to 21, individuals held an average of 4.1 jobs and were out of the labor force 27 percent of weeks. From ages 22 to 25, individuals held 3.2 jobs while being out of the labor force just 17 percent of weeks. This pattern was similar for all gender, and racial and ethnic groups at all levels of educational attainment. (See table 4.)

Employment differences by education begin early in workers' careers. From ages 18 to 21, high school dropouts were employed 51 percent of weeks, and out of the labor force 37 percent of weeks. In comparison, high school graduates worked 69 percent of weeks from ages 18 to 21, and were out of the labor force for 24 percent of weeks. This pattern persists at later ages. From ages 22 to 25, high school dropouts worked 58 percent of weeks and were out of the labor force for 32 percent of weeks, compared to high school graduates, who worked 76 percent of weeks and were out of the labor force 17 percent of weeks. The labor force participation of college graduates undergoes the greatest change. For college graduates, the percent of weeks worked rose from 64 percent at ages 18 to 21, to 83 percent at ages 22 to 25. These individuals spent 34 percent of weeks out of the labor force from ages 18 to 21, but only 14 percent of weeks out of the labor force from ages 22 to 25, less than all other educational attainment categories.

The racial employment gap is more pronounced at lower levels of educational attainment. From ages 22 to 25, white dropouts spent 61 percent of weeks employed and 28 percent of weeks out of the labor force, while black dropouts spent 44 percent of weeks employed and 42 percent of weeks out of the labor force. This difference is much lower among those who hold a bachelor's degree. At the same age, white college graduates spent 13 percent of weeks out of the labor force and 84 percent of weeks employed and black college graduates spent 17 percent of weeks out of the labor force and 79 percent employed.

### **Duration of Employment Relationships**

By their 26th birthday, nearly all young adults had held at least one job since age 18. Most jobs held through age 25 were of relatively short duration. Of the jobs held by 18- to 25-year-old workers, 56 percent ended in 1 year or less, and another 14 percent ended in less than 2 years. Twelve percent of jobs lasted 2 years or more. Another 18 percent of jobs were ongoing at the time of the 2010-11 survey, and their ultimate duration is therefore not yet known. (See table 5.)

Jobs held by high school dropouts were more likely to end in 1 year or less than were jobs held by workers with more education. In particular, of the jobs held by women high school dropouts, 70 percent ended in 1 year or less, while 6 percent lasted 2 years or more.

# Technical Note

The estimates in this release were obtained using data from the first 14 rounds of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The NLSY97 collects extensive information on labor market behavior and educational experiences. Information about respondents' families and communities also is obtained in the survey.

This survey is conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University, under the direction and sponsorship of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Partial funding support for the survey has been provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education of the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Science Foundation.

## Sample

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 is a nationally representative sample of 8,984 young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. This sample is composed of the following groups:

- A cross-sectional sample designed to represent the noninstitutionalized, civilian segment of young people living in the U.S. in 1997 and born between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1984.
- Supplemental samples of Hispanic or Latino and black youths living in the U.S. in 1997 and born between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1984.

The fourteenth round of annual interviews took place between October 2010 and May 2011. This release examines the period from respondents' 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until the month before respondents were age 26. All results except the first two age categories of table 1 are weighted using the survey weights from the round in which the respondents were age 25. The estimates of school enrollment status at ages 23 and 24 uses the survey weights from the round in which the respondents were those ages. The survey weights correct for oversampling of some demographic groups and nonresponse. When weighted, the data represent all people who were born in the years 1980 to 1984 and living in the U.S. in 1997. Not represented by the survey are U.S. immigrants who were born from 1980 to 1984 and moved to the U.S. after 1997. NLSY97 sample members remain eligible to be interviewed during military service or if they become incarcerated or institutionalized.

## Work history data

The total number of jobs that people hold during their work life is an easy concept to understand but a difficult one to measure. Reliable estimates require a survey that interviews the same people over the course of their entire work life and also keeps track of all the jobs they ever held. The NLSY97 tracks the number of jobs that people have held, but the respondents in this survey are still young, and have many years of schooling and work life ahead of them. As the cohort continues to age, however, more complete information will become available.

A unique feature of the NLSY97 is that it collects the beginning and ending dates of all jobs held by a respondent so that a longitudinal history can be constructed of each respondent's work experiences. The NLSY97 work history data provide a week-by-week work record of each respondent from January 1, 1994, through the most recent survey date. These data contain information on the respondent's labor force status each week, the usual hours worked per week at all jobs, and earnings for all jobs. If a respondent worked at more than one job in any week, hours and earnings are obtained for additional jobs. When a respondent who missed one or more consecutive survey rounds is interviewed again, he or she is asked to provide information about all time since the last interview.

## Interaction between time and age in a longitudinal survey

Because the NLSY97 is a longitudinal survey, meaning the same people are surveyed over time, the ages of the respondents change with each survey round. It is important to keep in mind this inherent link between the calendar years and the ages of the respondents. The youngest respondents in the sample (birth year 1984) turned 25 during calendar year 2009, whereas the oldest respondents (birth year 1980) turned 25 during calendar year 2005. Some respondents may not be used in all tables if information about their work history is incomplete.

## Definitions

*School enrollment status.* If a respondent was enrolled in college at any point during the month of October, he or she is counted as enrolled. If a respondent had not earned a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) credential, he or she is counted as a high school dropout.

*Training.* The NLSY97 obtains information on formal training experiences outside of regular schooling. The

training questions explore what kinds of training respondents obtain, where and when they are trained, how the training is paid for, and what skills are acquired. Training programs include: Business or secretarial training; vocational, technical, or trade training; vocational rehabilitation centers; licensed practical nursing or registered nursing programs; apprenticeship programs; adult basic education and GED programs; correspondence courses; formal company training or seminars; and government training.

*Employed.* The NLSY97 collects employment histories for civilian jobs and military service. Respondents are classified as employed if they did any work during the specified time period as paid employees, as self-employed proprietors of their own businesses, as unpaid workers in a business owned by a member of their family, or if they were serving in the Armed Forces.

*Unemployed.* Respondents are classified as unemployed if they did not work during the specified time period but reported that they looked for work or were on layoff from a job. No probing for intensity of job search is done.

*Not in the labor force.* Respondents are classified as not in the labor force if they did not work or look for work during the specified time period.

*Job.* A job is defined as a period of work with a particular employer. Jobs are therefore employer-based, not position-based. If a respondent indicates that he or she left a job but in a subsequent survey returned to the same job, it would not be counted as a new job. For self-employed workers, each “new” job is defined by the individuals themselves.

*Race and ethnic groups.* In this release, the findings are reported for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos. These groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. In other BLS publications, estimates usually are published for whites, blacks, and Hispanics or Latinos, but these groups are not mutually exclusive. “Hispanic or Latino” is considered to be an ethnic group, and people in that group can be of any race. Most other BLS publications include estimates for Hispanics or Latinos in the white and black race groups in addition to the Hispanic or Latino ethnic group.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. School enrollment status of young adults during the October when ages 23 to 25 in 2003-10 by sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**  
(Percent distribution)

Characteristic	School enrollment status					
	Total	High school dropouts	High school graduates, not enrolled in college	General Educational Development (GED) recipients, not enrolled in college	Enrolled in college	Bachelor's degree or more <sup>1</sup>
Total, October when age 23 .....	100.0	10.6	45.5	7.9	17.1	18.7
Men .....	100.0	11.7	47.9	9.2	16.8	14.2
Women .....	100.0	9.4	43.0	6.6	17.3	23.4
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	8.3	44.4	7.6	17.0	22.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	16.4	47.7	11.3	15.6	8.8
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	16.6	52.1	6.8	16.2	8.1
Total, October when age 24 .....	100.0	10.2	45.4	8.5	12.7	23.0
Men .....	100.0	11.1	47.8	9.9	12.3	18.7
Women .....	100.0	9.2	42.9	6.9	13.2	27.6
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	8.2	44.3	8.0	12.0	27.5
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	15.7	48.4	12.3	12.4	11.1
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	15.4	50.9	7.6	15.5	10.2
Total, October when age 25 .....	100.0	9.4	42.9	8.4	13.5	25.7
Men .....	100.0	10.2	45.0	9.9	13.2	21.5
Women .....	100.0	8.5	40.7	6.8	13.7	30.2
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	7.5	41.7	8.0	12.4	30.2
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	14.4	45.9	11.4	14.3	13.8
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	15.0	49.3	8.4	15.0	12.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

**Table 2. Employment status of young adults not enrolled in school during the October when age 25 in 2005-10 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**  
(Percent distribution)

Educational attainment during the October when age 25	Employment status during the October when age 25				
	Total	Employed civilian	Serving in Armed Forces	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total .....	100.0	76.7	2.6	4.6	16.1
Men .....	100.0	78.1	4.2	5.2	12.5
Women .....	100.0	75.2	0.9	4.1	19.8
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	79.0	2.5	4.0	14.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	67.7	2.6	8.0	21.8
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	76.7	2.7	4.1	16.4
High school dropouts .....	100.0	60.0	0.1	6.6	33.3
Men .....	100.0	68.3	0.2	7.9	23.6
Women .....	100.0	49.3	( <sup>1</sup> )	4.8	45.9
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	65.7	( <sup>1</sup> )	5.5	28.8
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	42.8	0.5	11.6	45.1
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	69.7	( <sup>1</sup> )	3.7	26.6
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>2</sup> .....	100.0	76.0	3.0	4.7	16.3
Men .....	100.0	81.6	4.7	4.6	9.0
Women .....	100.0	67.8	0.7	4.8	26.7
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	77.7	2.9	4.2	15.2
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	67.7	3.9	7.8	20.5
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	78.2	3.4	3.6	14.8
Some college, no longer enrolled .....	100.0	81.3	3.4	3.9	11.5
Men .....	100.0	82.8	5.6	3.7	7.9
Women .....	100.0	79.7	1.0	4.1	15.2
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	83.0	3.4	3.2	10.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	76.4	2.4	6.8	14.4
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	80.1	4.2	3.6	12.1
Bachelor's degree or more, no longer enrolled <sup>3</sup> .....	100.0	91.2	1.5	2.7	4.6
Men .....	100.0	91.7	2.6	2.7	2.9
Women .....	100.0	90.8	0.6	2.7	5.9
White, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	91.4	1.5	2.7	4.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	100.0	94.3	0.9	3.3	1.6
Hispanic or Latino .....	100.0	87.5	1.6	0.5	4.7

<sup>1</sup> Less than .05 percent.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

<sup>3</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

NOTE: The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

**Table 3. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 25 in 1998-2010 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**

Characteristic	Average number of jobs	Percent of total weeks while ages 18 to 25 in 1998-2010		
		Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total, ages 18 to 25 in 1998-2010.....	6.3	71.8	6.1	22.1
Less than a high school diploma .....	5.8	54.1	11.7	34.3
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	6.2	72.3	7.0	17.6
Some college or associate degree .....	6.4	76.6	5.7	17.7
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	6.6	73.0	3.0	24.0
Men .....	6.2	73.5	6.6	19.9
Less than a high school diploma .....	6.1	61.7	12.9	25.3
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	6.3	75.9	7.5	17.1
Some college or associate degree .....	6.2	79.0	5.6	15.4
Bachelors degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	6.1	69.5	3.1	27.4
Women .....	6.4	70.1	5.5	24.4
Less than a high school diploma .....	5.4	44.2	10.1	45.7
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	6.0	68.0	6.5	25.5
Some college or associate degree .....	6.5	74.3	5.7	19.9
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	7.0	75.7	2.9	21.4
White, non-Hispanic .....	6.5	74.9	5.0	20.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	6.6	58.7	11.3	30.0
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	6.4	76.1	5.6	18.3
Some college or associate degree .....	6.5	79.0	4.7	16.3
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	6.8	74.3	2.8	22.9
Black, non-Hispanic .....	5.9	60.9	10.6	28.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	4.6	39.6	15.5	44.9
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	5.8	60.8	11.7	27.4
Some college or associate degree .....	6.4	68.4	9.5	22.1
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	6.3	68.2	4.1	27.7
Hispanic or Latino .....	5.7	71.2	6.5	22.3
Less than a high school diploma .....	5.2	56.6	8.5	31.9
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	5.7	70.9	7.6	21.5
Some college or associate degree .....	5.8	76.5	5.6	18.0
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	5.8	73.0	3.4	23.5

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees, such as law or medical degrees.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 26 when interviewed in 2010-11. Percentages do not sum to 100 percent due to a small number of respondents whose employment status cannot be determined for all weeks. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. Educational attainment is determined as of age 25.

**Table 4. Percent of weeks individuals were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force from age 18 through age 25 in 1998-2010 by age, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**

Characteristic	Age 18 to 21 in 1998-2006				Age 22 to 25 in 2002-10			
	Average number of jobs	Percent of total weeks			Average number of jobs	Percent of total weeks		
		Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force		Employed	Unemployed	Not in labor force
Total .....	4.1	66.7	6.4	26.9	3.2	77.0	5.8	17.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	3.7	50.5	12.8	36.7	2.8	57.7	10.8	31.6
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	4.1	68.7	7.6	23.7	3.0	76.0	6.6	17.4
Some college or associate degree .....	4.2	73.1	6.1	20.8	3.1	80.1	5.4	14.6
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	4.0	63.6	2.7	33.8	3.6	82.5	3.3	14.2
Men .....	4.0	67.4	7.1	25.5	3.2	79.6	6.2	14.2
Less than a high school diploma .....	3.9	57.5	14.5	28.0	2.9	66.0	11.6	12.9
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	4.1	70.5	8.2	21.3	3.1	80.3	6.8	12.9
Some college or associate degree .....	4.1	74.6	6.0	19.4	3.1	83.3	5.4	11.3
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	3.7	58.1	2.8	39.1	3.4	80.9	3.4	15.6
Women .....	4.2	66.0	5.7	28.3	3.2	74.2	5.4	20.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	3.3	41.5	10.6	47.9	2.6	46.9	9.5	43.3
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	4.1	66.1	6.8	27.1	2.8	70.0	6.3	23.8
Some college or associate degree .....	4.4	71.7	6.1	22.2	3.1	77.0	5.4	17.7
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	4.3	67.8	2.6	29.6	3.7	83.7	3.2	13.2
White, non-Hispanic .....	4.3	70.3	5.1	24.5	3.3	79.4	4.9	15.7
Less than a high school diploma .....	4.2	56.2	11.9	32.0	3.1	61.1	11.0	27.9
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	4.3	73.6	6.0	20.4	3.1	78.6	5.3	16.1
Some college or associate degree .....	4.4	76.6	4.9	18.5	3.2	81.4	4.5	14.1
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	4.2	65.1	2.5	32.4	3.7	83.6	3.1	13.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	3.6	54.5	11.3	43.2	3.0	67.4	9.9	22.8
Less than a high school diploma .....	2.8	35.2	17.4	47.3	2.3	43.9	14.0	42.1
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	3.6	54.7	12.6	32.7	2.9	67.0	11.1	21.9
Some college or associate degree .....	4.0	62.5	10.1	27.5	3.3	74.3	8.9	18.8
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	3.7	57.2	3.8	39.0	3.5	79.2	4.2	16.6
Hispanic or Latino .....	3.7	65.7	7.4	27.0	2.9	76.8	5.7	17.5
Less than a high school diploma .....	3.3	53.9	10.7	35.5	2.6	65.4	6.5	28.1
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	3.8	65.8	8.4	25.8	2.8	76.0	6.9	17.2
Some college or associate degree .....	3.8	70.9	6.2	22.9	3.0	82.1	4.9	13.1
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	3.5	66.4	3.5	30.2	3.2	79.7	3.4	16.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees, such as law or medical degrees.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 26 when interviewed in 2010-11. Totals do not add to 100 percent due to a small number of respondents whose employment status cannot be determined for all weeks. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates.

**Table 5. Duration of employment relationship with a single employer for all jobs from age 18 to age 25 in 1998-2010 by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity**

Characteristic	Percent of those who ever held a job	Percent distribution of duration of employment relationships			
		1 year or less	More than 1 year but less than 2 years	2 years or more	Ongoing at the 2010 - 11 survey
Total, ages 18 to 25 in 1998-2010.....	98.6	55.8	14.3	11.8	18.1
Less than a high school diploma .....	94.7	65.0	12.9	7.3	14.8
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	98.6	55.2	13.9	11.9	18.9
Some college or associate degree .....	98.7	55.2	14.1	12.1	18.5
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	99.7	54.3	15.2	12.7	17.8
Men .....	98.4	55.1	13.8	11.5	19.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	95.6	60.6	13.1	8.6	17.7
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	98.9	54.9	14.1	11.1	19.8
Some college or associate degree .....	98.1	54.3	13.7	12.0	19.9
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	99.4	54.7	13.6	12.2	19.5
Women .....	98.8	56.4	14.8	12.2	16.6
Less than a high school diploma .....	93.7	70.0	12.7	5.8	11.4
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	98.0	55.8	13.7	13.1	17.5
Some college or associate degree .....	99.3	56.1	14.5	12.2	17.2
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	(3)	54.0	16.5	13.1	16.4
White, non-Hispanic .....	99.1	55.9	14.1	12.3	17.7
Less than a high school diploma .....	95.8	68.6	12.4	7.3	11.7
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	99.0	54.5	13.6	12.6	19.3
Some college or associate degree .....	99.1	55.8	13.6	12.6	18.0
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	(3)	54.4	15.6	12.6	17.4
Black, non-Hispanic .....	97.2	59.2	13.6	9.1	18.1
Less than a high school diploma .....	90.3	66.1	10.3	4.7	19.0
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	96.9	62.0	14.3	7.8	16.0
Some college or associate degree .....	98.4	57.7	13.6	9.6	19.1
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	99.6	54.1	14.9	13.0	18.0
Hispanic or Latino .....	98.5	52.2	14.9	12.9	20.0
Less than a high school diploma .....	95.8	55.6	14.8	10.2	19.3
High school graduates, never enrolled in college <sup>1</sup> .....	99.3	50.5	14.8	14.6	20.0
Some college or associate degree .....	98.4	52.5	15.0	12.4	20.0
Bachelor's degree or more <sup>2</sup> .....	(3)	50.8	14.8	13.9	20.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent (General Education Development (GED)) credential.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees or professional degrees such as law or medical degrees.

<sup>3</sup> Number rounds to 100 percent.

NOTE: This table excludes individuals who had not yet turned age 26 when interviewed in 2010-11. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 consists of young men and women who were ages 12 to 16 on December 31, 1996. Race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity groups are mutually exclusive but not exhaustive. Other race groups, which are included in the overall totals, are not shown separately because their representation in the survey sample is not sufficiently large to provide statistically reliable estimates. Educational attainment is determined as of age 25.